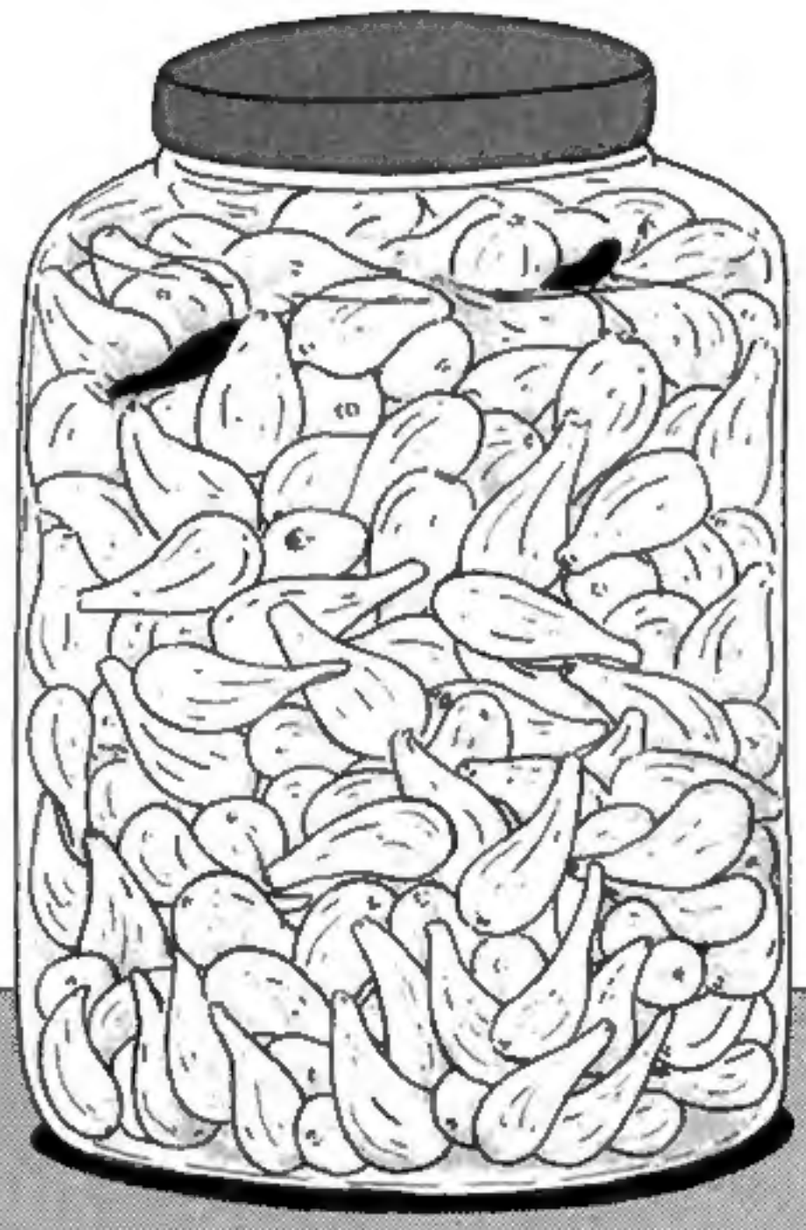
42nd Night ◎ Rakkyou no Amazuzuke*

JUST AROUND THE TIME WHEN THESE RAKKYOU WERE DONE PICKLING AND READY FOR EATING...



SHIMURA-SAN DRIVES A PRIVATELY-OWNED TAXI AND ON DAYS WHEN HE FINISHES EARLY IN THE MORNING, HE'LL DROP BY AROUND 6 A.M. FOR A DRINK.

ONCE AGAIN, THE FIRST CUSTOMER IN WAS SHIMURA-SAN.

I WAS WONDERING IF THEY'D BE DONE BY NOW. THE RAKKYOU, I MEAN.

T/N: RAKKYOU ARE A TYPE OF SCALLION (ALLIUM CHINENSE) THAT ARE MOST COMMONLY EATEN AS PICKLES IN JAPAN. AMAZUZUKE IDENTIFIES IT AS HAVING BEEN PICKLED IN SWEETENED VINEGAR.

CRUNCH

7°

SFX: AHHHHH

THERE'S NO CHANCE IN HELL THAT MY WIFE'LL DO IT! SAYS SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK IF HER HANDS STINK OF RAKKYOU.

SINCE YOU LIKE THEM THAT MUCH, WHY NOT PICKLE THEM AT HOME?

ONE MORE.

Miki's Salon

SHIMURA-SAN'S WIFE WORKS AT HER FAMILY'S SALON, WHICH IS TUCKED AWAY DEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD AS MY DINER. SHIMURA-SAN TELLS ME THAT SINCE HE LIVES ABOVE THE SALON, HE'S ONLY ABLE TO DRINK AT AROUND THIS TIME.

Italian restaurant owner and essayist, Hisamitsu Ryouko...

Our commentators today on Good Morning Wide* are: Economic analyst, Shimizu Tadayoshi...

AHA.

SHE USED TO BE A HOSTESS AT A CLUB IN KABUKICHŌ.

HISAMITSU RYOUKO'S BEEN SHOWING UP QUITE A LOT, LATELY. SEEMS LIKE QUITE THE GO-GETTER.

YOU SURE ARE WELL-INFORMED, HUH.

SHE MARRIED THE CHEF-OWNER OF AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT IN GINZA AND HELPED MAKE THE PLACE A ROARING SUCCESS. AFTER HER HUSBAND DIED, SHE MADE A FORAY INTO THE HOTEL INDUSTRY. NOW, SHE'S THE OWNER OF THREE RESTAURANTS AND A HOTEL.

CRUNCH

...KINDA, YEAH.

T/N: POSSIBLY A REFERENCE TO THE TV ASAHI VARIETY SHOWS "GOOD MORNING" AND "WIDE! SCRAMBLE".

WELL...

SFX: THUMP

IT COULDN'T BE HELPED. ...RYOUKO, IF SOMEDAY I WIN THE NAOKI PRIZE*, AT LEAST SEND ME A CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM, OKAY?

SORRY. I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO ALWAYS BE THERE AND SUPPORT YOU, BUT...

SURE...

SIGN: PRIVATE TAXI

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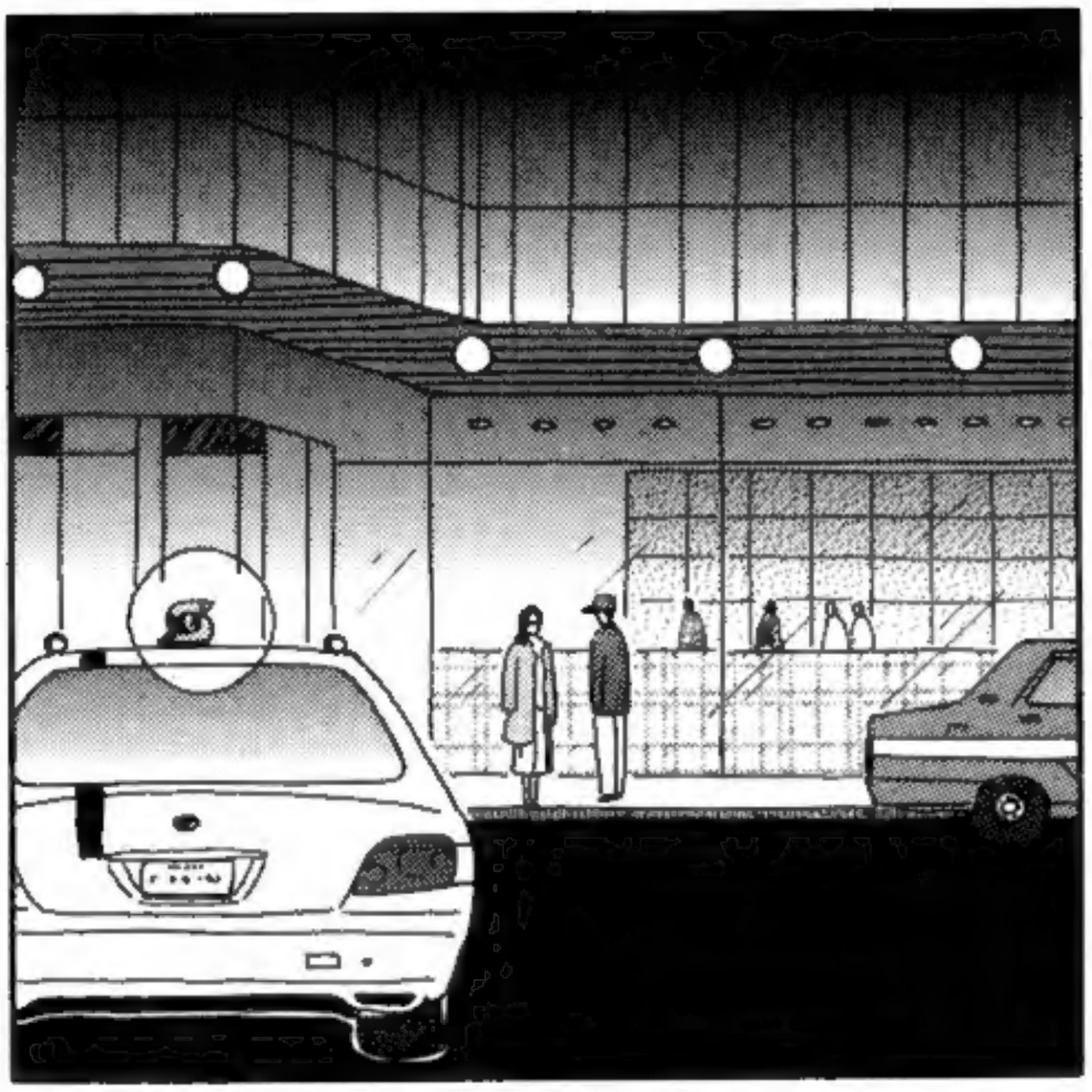
T/N: A SEMIANNUALLY AWARDED LITERARY AWARD FOR THE BEST NEW OR RISING AUTHOR OF POPULAR FICTION. IT IS, ALONG WITH THE AKUTAGAWA PRIZE (LITERARY FICTION), ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND SOUGHT AFTER LITERARY AWARDS.



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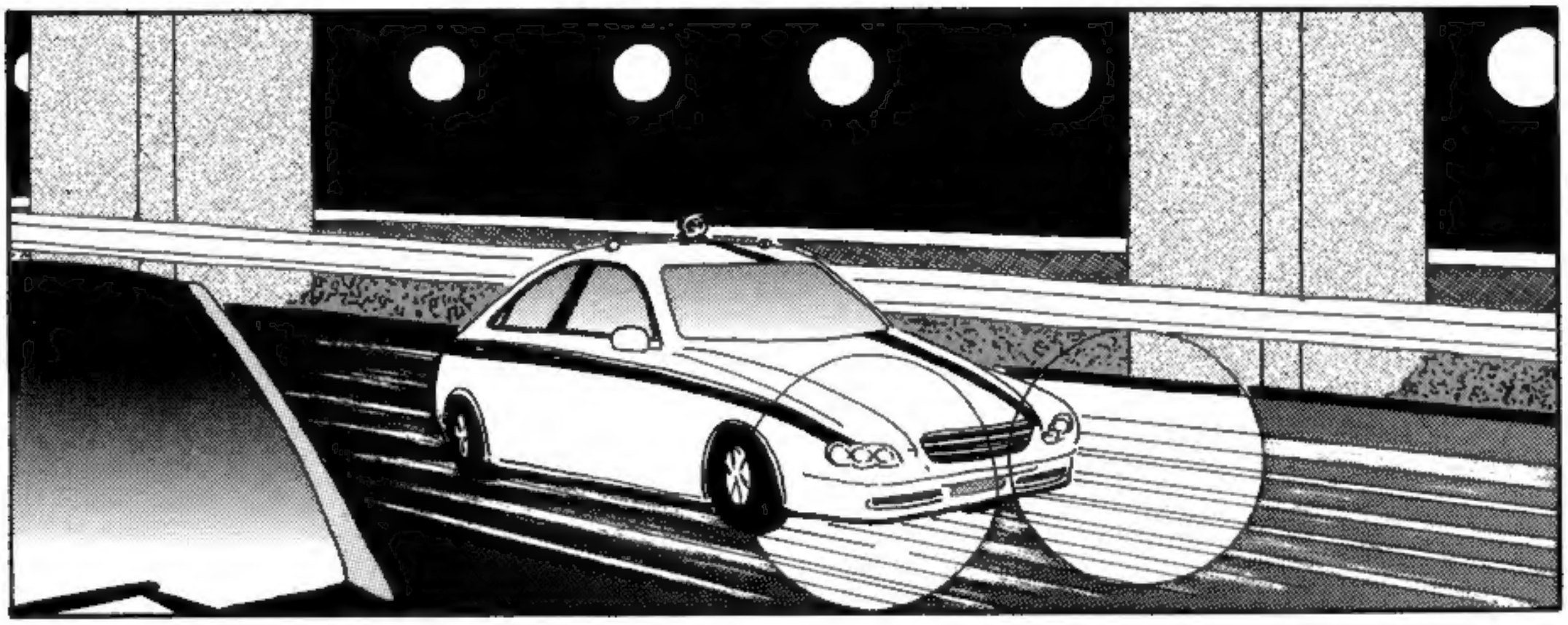
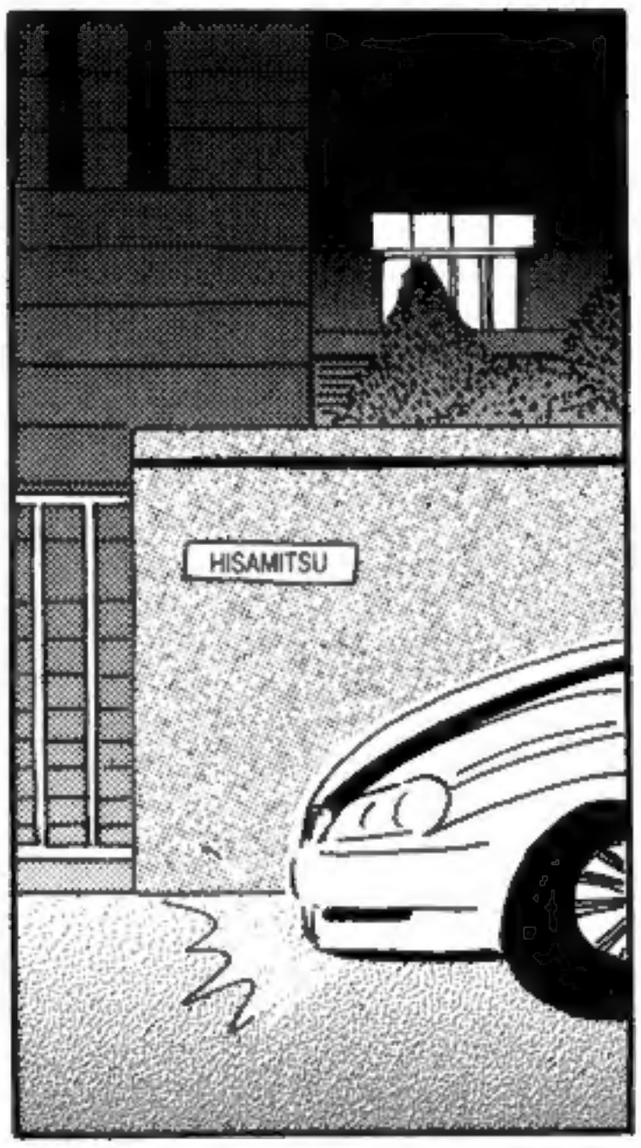


HERE'S YOUR CHANGE.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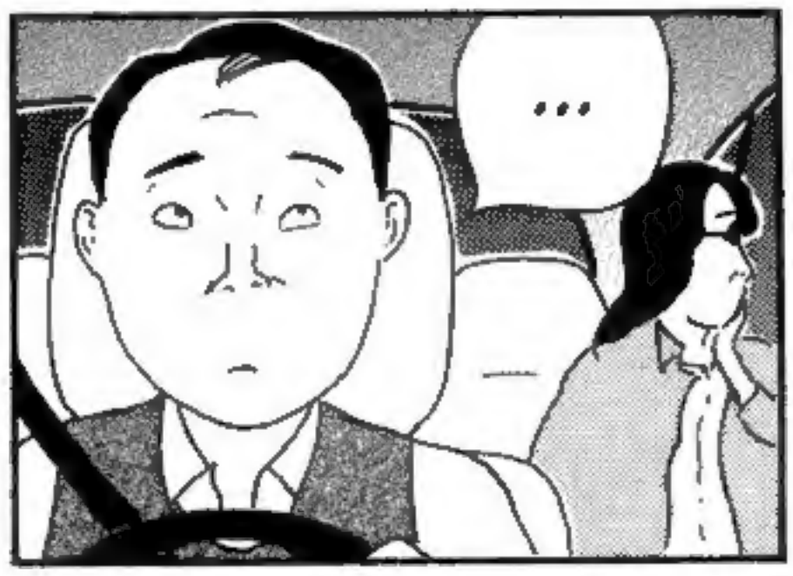
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YEAH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

MIGHT YOU BE KEI-CHAN!?

OH, HERE'S MY BUSINESS CARD. FEEL FREE TO GIVE ME A CALL. I'LL COME FOR YOU ANYTIME YOU LIKE.

WELL, STUFF HAP-PENED.

HAVE YOU STOPPED WRITING NOVELS?

SURE.

SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN CALLED TO PICK HER UP A FEW TIMES.

NO WONDER YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT HER.

AHA, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT...

SO THE EMBERS OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP HAVE BEEN REKINDLED, EH?

ALL WE EVER END UP DOING IS TALK ABOUT THE PAST. WE JUST SORTA HANG OUT WHEN SHE GETS IN THE CAR...

...AH, ACTUALLY, FROM TIME TO TIME, I GET A CRAVING FOR THOSE PICKLED RAKKYOU OF YOURS, KEI-CHAN. DO YOU STILL MAKE THEM?

OH, NOT AT ALL.

SINCE YOU OWN A RESTAURANT, I BET YOU GET TO EAT ALL KINDS OF DELICIOUS THINGS EVERY DAY, DON'T YOU?

WELL, I CAN ALWAYS MAKE SOME AGAIN FOR YOU.

...I SEE.

NO... I HAVEN'T MADE THEM EVEN ONCE SINCE YOU LEFT.

YEAH.

EH? REALLY!?

SHE WOULD BE.

MY WIFE SURE WAS SURPRISED TO SEE ME PEELING RAKKYOU ALL OF A SUDDEN.

PRETTY PATHETIC, ISN'T IT? TO THINK I'D BE PICKLING RAKKYOU FOR A FORMER LOVER...

...THEY SHOULD BE READY TO EAT BEFORE VERY LONG.

I EVADED HER QUESTIONS BY SAYING I WAS FORCED TO PICKLE THEM BECAUSE SHE REFUSED TO DO SO. ALSO, EVEN THOUGH SOME TWENTY-ODD YEARS HAD PASSED, I STILL REMEMBERED HOW TO DO IT.

NO, I'M NOT GOING TO. SINCE SHE'S THE ONE WHO CONTACTS ME, I THOUGHT I'D JUST WAIT.

HAVE YOU CONTACTED HER YET?

It appears that cases of food poisoning have been reported at an Italian restaurant in Tokyo that is owned by the essayist Hisamitsu Ryouko.

...

HUH!?

IT WAS FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF INCIDENTS INCLUDING REPORTS OF TAX EVASION AND A SCANDALOUS AFFAIR WITH A CERTAIN MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. AS SUCH, MS. HISAMITSU FADED FROM THE PUBLIC EYE...

FFAIR

LATE NIGHT TRYST WITH MEM OF H OF R

Hisamitsu Ryouko was ...leaving an exclusive ...gi with

SHE WAS, OF COURSE, ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE FOOD POISONING INCIDENT, BUT THEN...

MASTER, I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU COULD TAKE THESE OFF MY HANDS, COULD YOU?

BUT ONE DAY, AFTER SOME TIME HAD PASSED...

SHIMURA-SAN FELL INTO DEPRESSION AND ALSO DISAPPEARED FOR A WHILE...

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SNACK keep

I'M OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT I CAN'T ALWAYS KEEP DRAGGING THIS AROUND WITH ME... I'VE GOT TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND ME.

ARE YOU SURE? AREN'T YOU GOING TO GIVE THEM TO HER?

Village Idiot Scans

http://vi-scans.com

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...HAVE BECOME QUITE THE HIT ITEM. I'M THINKING OF REQUESTING FOR A LOT MORE, NEXT YEAR.

DEEE-LICIOUS.

THESE RAKKYOU PICKLED BY SHIMURA-SAN...

CRUNCH